



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6631

LCO No. 3096

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL READINESS GRANTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (c) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
4 Commissioner of Social Services, shall establish a grant program to
5 provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness programs
6 for eligible children who reside in priority school districts pursuant to
7 section 10-266p or in former priority school districts as provided in this
8 subsection. Under the program, the grant shall be provided, in
9 accordance with this section, to the town in which such priority school
10 district or former priority school district is located or to a regional
11 school readiness council established by such a town pursuant to
12 subsection (c) of section 10-16r, as amended by this act. Eligibility shall
13 be determined for a five-year period based on an applicant's
14 designation as a priority school district for the initial year of
15 application, except that if a school district that receives a grant
16 pursuant to this subsection is no longer designated as a priority school
17 district at the end of such five-year period, such former priority school

18 district shall continue to be eligible to receive a grant pursuant to this
19 subsection. Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon
20 available funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief
21 elected official of such town and the superintendent of schools for such
22 priority school district or former priority school district shall submit a
23 plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the local
24 request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and
25 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
26 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
27 funding. The plan shall: (1) Be developed in consultation with the local
28 or regional school readiness council established pursuant to section 10-
29 16r, as amended by this act; (2) be based on a needs and resource
30 assessment; (3) provide for the issuance of requests for proposals for
31 providers of accredited or approved school readiness programs,
32 provided, after the initial requests for proposals, facilities that have
33 been approved to operate a child care program financed through the
34 Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority and have
35 received a commitment for debt service from the Department of Social
36 Services pursuant to section 17b-749i, are exempt from the requirement
37 for issuance of annual requests for proposals; and (4) identify the need
38 for funding pursuant to section 17b-749a in order to extend the hours
39 and days of operation of school readiness programs in order to
40 provide child day care services for children attending such programs.

41 Sec. 2. Subdivision (4) of subsection (e) of section 10-16p of the
42 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
43 thereof:

44 (4) If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
45 this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
46 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
47 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use up to
48 ten per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked for
49 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns or regional
50 school readiness councils that are eligible for grants pursuant to

51 subsection (c) of this section, as amended by this act.

52 Sec. 3. Subsection (j) of section 10-16p of the general statutes is
53 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

54 (j) Children enrolled in school readiness programs funded pursuant
55 to this section shall not be counted (1) as resident students for
56 purposes of subdivision (22) of section 10-262f, or (2) in the
57 determination of average daily membership pursuant to subdivision
58 (2) of subsection (a) of section 10-261.

59 Sec. 4. Subsection (a) of section 10-16r of the general statutes is
60 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

61 (a) A town seeking to apply for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of
62 section 10-16p, [or] section 10-16u or section 7 of this act shall convene
63 a local school readiness council, in accordance with this subsection, or
64 establish a regional school readiness council pursuant to subsection (c)
65 of this section, as amended by this act. Any other town may convene
66 such a council. The chief elected official of the town or, in the case of a
67 regional school district, the chief elected officials of the towns in the
68 school district and the superintendent of schools for the school district
69 shall jointly appoint and convene [such] a local school readiness
70 council. Each local school readiness council shall be composed of: (1)
71 The chief elected official, or the official's designee; (2) the
72 superintendent of schools, or a management level staff person as the
73 superintendent's designee; (3) parents; (4) representatives from local
74 programs such as Head Start, family resource centers, nonprofit and
75 for-profit child day care centers, group day care homes,
76 prekindergarten and nursery schools, and family day care home
77 providers; and (5) other representatives from the community who
78 provide services to children. The chief elected official shall designate
79 the chairperson of the local school readiness council.

80 Sec. 5. Subsection (c) of section 10-16r of the general statutes is
81 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

82 (c) Two or more towns or school districts and appropriate
83 representatives of groups or entities interested in early childhood
84 education in a region may establish a regional school readiness
85 council. If a priority school is located in at least one of such school
86 districts, the regional school readiness council may apply for a grant
87 pursuant to subsection (d) of section 10-16p. If a town that is eligible
88 for a grant pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16p, section 10-16u
89 or section 7 of this act is one of the towns that establishes a regional
90 school readiness council, such council may receive such grant on
91 behalf of such town. The regional school readiness council may
92 perform the duties outlined in subdivisions (2) to (10), inclusive, of
93 subsection (b) of this section.

94 Sec. 6. Section 10-16u of the general statutes is repealed and the
95 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

96 For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each fiscal year
97 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the
98 Commissioner of Social Services, shall provide grants, within available
99 appropriations, to eligible school readiness program providers
100 pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-16p to provide spaces in
101 accredited or approved school readiness programs for eligible children
102 who reside in transitional school districts pursuant to section 10-263c,
103 except for transitional school districts eligible for grants pursuant to
104 subsection (c) of section 10-16p. Under the program, the grant shall be
105 provided to the town in which such transitional school district is
106 located or to a regional school readiness council established by such a
107 town pursuant to subsection (c) of section 10-16r, as amended by this
108 act. Eligibility shall be determined for a five-year period based on a
109 school district's designation as a transitional school district in the
110 initial year of application, except that grants pursuant to this section
111 shall not be provided for transitional school districts eligible for grants
112 pursuant to subsection (c) of said section 10-16p. Grant awards shall be
113 made annually contingent upon available funding and a satisfactory
114 annual evaluation. The chief elected official of such town and the

115 superintendent of schools for such transitional school district shall
116 submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to the
117 local request for proposal process to the Departments of Education and
118 Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans and
119 shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction for
120 funding. The plan shall meet the requirements specified in subsection
121 (c) of said section 10-16p. If a town that is eligible for a grant pursuant
122 to this section does not submit, by January first, a plan which is
123 subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire amount of
124 funds for which such town is eligible, the department may use up to
125 ten per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked for
126 expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns or regional
127 school readiness councils that are eligible for grants pursuant to this
128 section.

129 Sec. 7. (NEW) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, and each
130 fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
131 with the Commissioner of Social Services, shall provide grants, within
132 available appropriations, to eligible school readiness program
133 providers pursuant to subsection (b) of section 10-16p of the general
134 statutes to provide spaces in accredited or approved school readiness
135 programs for eligible children who reside in towns that have a per
136 capita income that is equal to or less than seventy-five per cent of the
137 state median per capita income and do not qualify for grants pursuant
138 to subsection (c) or (d) of section 10-16p of the general statutes, as
139 amended by this act, or section 10-16u of the general statutes, as
140 amended by this act. Grants shall be provided to the town or to a
141 regional school readiness council established pursuant to subsection
142 (c) of section 10-16r of the general statutes, as amended by this act.
143 Grant awards shall be made annually contingent upon available
144 funding and a satisfactory annual evaluation. The chief elected official
145 of such town and the superintendent of schools for the school district
146 shall submit a plan for the expenditure of grant funds and responses to
147 the local request for proposal process to the Departments of Education
148 and Social Services. The departments shall jointly review such plans

149 and shall each approve the portion of such plan within its jurisdiction
150 for funding. The plan shall meet the requirements specified in
151 subsection (c) of said section 10-16p. If a town that is eligible for a
152 grant pursuant to this section does not submit, by January first, a plan
153 which is subsequently approved for the expenditure of the entire
154 amount of funds for which such town is eligible, the department may
155 use up to ten per cent of any amounts such town has not earmarked
156 for expenditure to provide supplemental grants to other towns or
157 regional school readiness councils that are eligible for grants pursuant
158 to this section.

159 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a program to provide school readiness grants to towns that have low per capita incomes. To allow regional school readiness councils to receive grants for which member towns are eligible. To make the school readiness grant programs for priority and transitional school districts consistent. To make technical changes.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]